

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in the Wesley Centre, Tondu on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Alex Marshall: Presided

Present (5) Cllrs Byron Jones, David Fowler, Alex Marshall, James Radcliffe and Meryl Wilkins
Clerk John Richfield, also Marged Griffiths from Penyfai Village Community Association.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Derrick Baker, Heidi Bennett, Altaf Hussain, Mal John and Ann John.

2. Members Written Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

Before the start of the meeting, Council members made declarations of interest in agenda items on the form provided, as follows:

Cllr Meryl Wilkins made her declaration and provided her annual declaration for the website

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2020

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

There were no matters arising on the minutes.

5. Report on Police / PACT Matters

It was noted that there was no current PACT, but the online discussion forum SLIDO was to take place at the end of March. It was also noted that NHCC was not the only Community Council without representation at meetings from the police. The Clerk had received an assurance from PCSO Mark Emery that he intended to be present at more future meetings, according to operational availability.

6. County Borough Councillors

(a) County Borough Councillor for Penyfai

Cllr Altaf Hussain had given his apologies for absence from the meeting. There were no matters raised.

(b) County Borough Councillor for Aberkenfig

Cllr James Radcliffe reported on the following matters:

Tarmac

A request for the work to tarmac the path in Coronation Street park had been submitted to the BCBC.

Planning Offices

Cllr Radcliffe noted that the Planning Department of BCBC appeared to operate a policy of not making any responses to the public. The Clerk would write asking Planning to review their policy and try to enhance their engagement with the public.

Primary Care

J Radcliffe had held a Meeting with the Head of Primary Care at Cwm Taff Bro Morgannwg and noted that they will include the provision of more houses. There would be clear implications for this policy.

Cllr Radcliffe was thanked for his report.

7. Membership of the Council – Update on two Casual Vacancies for Aberkenfig Ward

A request for an election had been received by the Electoral Services Department of the BCBC. The Clerk reported that the election was scheduled to be held on 26 March 2020. The process for nominations continued meanwhile.

8. Discussion of possible transfer of Pentrefelin Play Area

A request had been made by Simon Grey of Llanmoor Homes to the Chair of the Council to visit the site and discuss this offer. The meeting had not yet taken place with Mr Grey. This would be progressed by the Chair, and Cllr Alex Marshall. It was noted, in discussion that the bin was inadequate for the quantity of litter the site generated, so the Community Council would need to be aware of the amount of maintenance and the cost of litter removal if the play area was transferred to its ownership.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins declared her ongoing interest in the Llanmoor Estate land.

9. Maintenance Committee Report

Cllr Alex Marshall reported on behalf of the Maintenance Committee.

Woodlands

The work to implement the agreed maintenance plan had been completed, though future works were likely, given the recent weather. The Contractor had submitted his invoice for payment.

Cllr Marshall was thanked for the report.

10. Finance and Policy

(a) Accounts for Payment (update)

	£	
Centregreat Ltd (Christmas lighting)	3,150.00	(201718)
Floodlighting & Electrical Services Ltd (Christmas lighting)	1,584.00	(201719)
AABC Ltd (website hosting)	204.00	(201720)
JV Tree Services (Woodland Maintenance)	3,234.00	(201721)

(b) Update on Audit 2019

The Wales Audit Office was conducting the audit, no update had been received. The Clerk had recently contacted the Auditor offering any assistance required.

(c) Update on recruitment of a new Clerk

The closing date for receipt of applications was 15 February. The task group of four councillors would then shortlist potential candidates for interview, and the full council would meet applicants for interview. The Clerk asked members to consider setting an interview date in advance. Monday 9 March was a potential interview date.

(d) Consideration of a policy on grants to organisations

The Council agreed to ask another tasked group of members of the Council to consider options for a policy on grants to local organisations. The members of this group would be Cllr Mal John, Cllr Altaf Hussain and Cllr Alex Marshall.

11. Y Dderwen School 6th Form – support for local community

Concerning recent reports of the removal of 6th form provision for pupils at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, and following receipt of representations made by concerned parents, the Council agreed to ask the Clerk to write to the BCBC Director of Education to urge caution at the potential loss of this important part of the school community. It was agreed to write to oppose the removal of 16-18 education at the school.

12. Additional notice boards

The Clerk reported that as part of the application to the Community Council fund of the BCBC would be included a request for a match funded grant for provision of additional notice boards at Penyfai Pheasant field. This was noted, and the Council would await the outcome of the grant application.

13. Community Defibrillator sited at Penyfai Shop Treharne Drive

As the Chair had agreed with the owner of the shop that she gave authority for the Community Council to install a community defibrillator on the wall of the shop, the Clerk had written to her asking for confirmation in writing so as to proceed to order and install the defibrillator. When the reply was received, the equipment could be ordered.

14. Angelton Common – Emergency Tree Preservation Order

Following concern being raised by residents that works to trees were being undertaken on Angelton Common, the BCBC was to consider an emergency temporary Tree Preservation Order, pending full review of the facts. BCBC officer Hayley Evans had attended the site and examined a healthy oak tree and would make recommendation accordingly. The Clerk had enquired of Julian Golunski, the Commons Administrator, and his reply indicated that his operatives were working on the common. The Community Council agreed to await the outcome of the process.

15. Community Asset Transfer Update

The Heads of Terms, (the lease document) had not yet been received. The Clerk would advise the Council when it was received, as it needed a legal advisor to review the document.

The potential match funded grant for capital items would be requested as the Council agreed at its last meeting.

16. Correspondence

The notes circulated on the incoming correspondence were taken as read by the Council, the correspondence was as follows:

1. One Voice Wales

Details of possible training courses and dates. Noted.

2. NHCC Task Group (MJ, AH, HB BJ)

Documents to use for applicants for the post of part time Clerk.

3. One Voice Wales

Annual Financial Timetable of tasks for small and medium sized councils – to be provided to new Clerk.

4. Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association

Information on cycle route 4 – remedial work being done by Mike Mason Rights of Way BCBC.

5. Cllr Mal John

Passing n residents concerns about removal of trees on Angelton Common – and response from Mr Golunski. Also related request for temporary TPO to BCBC Planning Department.

6. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Copy of his written question to the Cabinet. Noted.

7. Penyfai School

Concerns regarding parking at the access lane to the School – passed on by a parent governor, and copied to Cllr Altaf Hussain, Ward Member BCBC.

8. Y Dderwen School

Information on the proposed closure of the 6th format Y Dderwen School. Letter to be sent to Director or Education to object.

9. BCBC Electoral department

Request had been received for an election for two Aberkenfig Vacancies -Election scheduled to take place Thursday 26 March 2020.

10. Tondu School

Confirmation that the Council meeting on Tuesday 14 April 2020 is booked at the School.

11. Centregreat Ltd

Invoice for Christmas lighting for £3,150.00

12. Floodlighting and Electrical Services Ltd

Invoice for Christmas lighting £1,584.00

13. AABC Ltd

Invoice for website hosting services for the last year. £204.00

14. JV Tree Services

Invoice for £3,234 for works at Woodlands.

15. One Voice Wales

Copy of Bulletin. Noted

17. Planning Report

The Council noted the following planning applications had been notified to the council since the last meeting.

P/19/810/FUL housing development off All Saints' Way Penyfai CF31 4BT (23 Dec) and again as Planning application consultation 29 January 2020

P/19/945/RLX Land south of All Saints' Way, Penyfai CF31 4BT (6 Jan)

Concerns were again raised at P/19/810, as previously.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins had been consulted personally and had strongly objected to the proposals for the development off All Saints Way, as the land was not suitable.

18. Other Reports from Councillors

Councillor Meryl Wilkins was concerned about road surface erosion in Penyfai following the recent bad weather, in particular the road at Coed Wernllys. The Clerk would advise Highways and ask if they could examine the road surface.

Cllr David Fowler was concerned that other traffic was entering the buses only road at Heol Penyfai. The Clerk would refer this to the police, and mention that residents were concerned about this.

Cllr James Radcliffe had reported residents concerns about a metal pipe in the grass by the shops at Pentrefelin, which may be a trip hazard.

The Clerk reported that the annual allotments rents meeting had taken place, and thanked Cllrs David Fowler and Alex Marshall who had joined him to meet the allotment gardeners and verify the money received.

18. Community Associations update

(a) Tondu and Aberkenfig

There was no report on this occasion.

(b) Penyfai Village

There was no report on this occasion.

16. Any Other Business

- I. Concerns were expressed at a recent road traffic accident in Pentrefelin near the junction. It was felt that a filter lane was needed. The Clerk would refer this to the police.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m. The next Ordinary meeting would be held in the Wesley Centre, Tondu, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 10 March 2020.